

09/17/40, 11/69  
AM  
11/14/07

Docket No.: 416-001

Page 2

In the Written Description

Page 3, line 22, amend the third paragraph to read:

AM  
11/14/07

2. U.S. Patents 4,194,500; 4,269,179; and 4,524,763 each disclose a gravity spine traction device combining the use of an inclined surface having a frame from which a traction brace depends and girds the torso of patients using the device to receive back stretching treatments. These earlier patents recognize that about 45% of the body weight is in the lower half of the body and have designed upper body harnesses which firmly attach to the patients body just below the rib cage. The supporting frame of a board assembly allows the patient to be suspended on a board so that the weight of the lower body applies tension force to the patient's lumbar spine region. Patent 4,524,763 specifically describes a frame and torso harness system adapted to maintain the thigh portion of the patient's legs in variable angular relation to the long axis of the patient's spine when applying tension traction. The assembly of Patent 4,269,179 requires a block and tackle pulley mechanism to hoist the patient off the floor to a traction force-imposing position. U.S. Patent 4,194,500 assembly includes a pair of spaced apart single foot steps on which the patient stands to don the torso harness and then removes both feet from the steps to suspend from the frame as shown.

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 13, and 16 to read:

1. A vertical traction assembly for using gravity to stretch a person's spine, said assembly comprising:
- a) frame means and torso harness means coupled to depend from said frame means,
  - b) said harness means being effective to maintain a person in a vertical traction suspension position after the person dons said harness means, and